

Monologue Creation - Creative Allsorts

What is a Monologue?

A monologue is a long speech delivered by a single character and is used to express a character's thoughts, emotions, or ideas. Depending on what type of monologue is used, the character can be addressing themselves, another character, or the audience.

Dramatic Monologue

A dramatic monologue is delivered by a character, to another character or to the audience. They are unbroken by the speech of other characters.

Soliloquy/Interior Monologue

A soliloquy is a type of monologue where a character delivers a long speech to themselves, rather than to another character or to the audience. It is the character talking to themselves trying to analyze their own thoughts, emotions, or situation.

Writing A Monologue

1. Define the Purpose

What are we writing about and why?

- Emotional release by a character
- Revealing a secret
- Sharing feelings and thoughts of a character
- Communicating with the audience

2. Develop a Character Profile

Most of these details might not appear in the monologue, but are necessary to help with delivery and understanding.

- Voice
- Facial Expression
- Appearance
- Body Language

3. Identify the Audience

The audience refers to the people your character will be addressing. The audience is the target of your character's monologue. It could be another character, the audience, or to the character's self.

4. Construct a Narrative

A monologue has three distinct parts - a beginning, a middle, and an end.

- Begin with the most crucial sentence. This could be a secret, fact, joke, or deep emotion to hook the audience.
- The middle part of the monologue is where you need to present everything. It must connect with the audience emotionally and fulfill the purpose of the monologue.
- The ending must be clear - a plot twist, a cliffhanger, a revelation or a very strong point.

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Monologue Examples

The Show Must Go On

It was opening night, and I was standing in the wings backstage. It was 10 minutes until curtain. I don't know what triggered it. Maybe it was knowing there were hundreds of people staring at the stage. Maybe it was my director rounding up all the kids and trying to quiet them down. I don't know. I kind of blanked out. (Beat) All I remember is one of my friends trying to comfort me, but I was hysterical. She was muttering something in my ear, desperately trying to calm me down. I knew what she was saying, but it didn't really make sense to me. I don't know. I felt...overwhelmed. Panicked. (Beat) And then I heard someone call "places." I ran to the bathroom and forced myself to calm down. It was hard, yes, but I did it somehow. After all, the show must go on. I dragged myself onto the stage and the lights nearly blinded me. I looked into the wings one last time and there was my friend, smiling at me. (Beat) I smiled back. I took a deep breath and sang my first notes. (Beat) Looking back, the whole show feels like a fever dream! Quick changes, running around, trying to get to scenes on time. Intermission. I remember the curtain call and wondering why I was ever so panicked in the first place. (Beat) It was fun.

Veruca

My daddy always gives me what I want. Some may say he spoils me, HA, I just say he loves me! So last week I saw a sign about some Golden Ticket competition, I didn't really know what they were for but I did know that there were only five in the entire world. I told Daddy I must have one and if I didn't get one, I would scream. That always works, Daddy hates it when I scream – especially when they have paid £50,000 for voice lessons. So anyway, Daddy told his workers to stop what they were doing and take the wrappers of all these candy bars instead. I had to wait a whole three days until they found one, and do you know what? That minimum wage hag tried to steal it! Luckily, Daddy was there to stop her. So now I have my ticket. I still haven't got the eighth pony I've asked for though, if I don't get it soon I shall scream!

Homeless Goldilocks

Yeah, I know. I know. You recognize me. "Aren't you that blonde girl who trashed the Bear's house?" Listen, I hear it all the time. That was a pretty low point for me, I gotta admit. But look, you really shouldn't make fun of the homeless. And technically, I'm not homeless. Never have been. I think of myself as more of an adventurer. Sure, I could get a job and rent a dumpy little apartment, but what would be the fun in that? Since the bear's house, I've stayed in some of the finest places in the world! One time, I went on a tour of the White House, and hid behind the curtains in the Oval office. I stayed up all night reading classified documents. They're a lot more boring than they sound. Another time, I crashed at Buckingham palace while the Queen was out doing some Queenly stuff. I tried on all her crowns. She may or may not be missing one. My favorite place was Santa's workshop. Yeah, I know. Everyone thinks that those elves never take a vacation. But a snowman told me that's not true. I got him to tell me the dates...cost me a carrot and I headed on up there. Seven days of playing with whatever I wanted and eating cookies and milk for every meal...now that's a vacation! So, don't be hating on homeless Goldilocks. I'm livin' the good life. And remember, if you have something cool inside your house, remember to lock up when you leave!

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FAQ's

How do I start writing a monologue?

To begin your monologue, focus on a strong, relatable theme or emotion. Dive into personal experiences, observations, or fictional scenarios that evoke the intended feeling. Remember, the key is to connect with your audience through genuine expression.

Should I follow a specific structure for my monologue?

While there's no strict formula, consider starting with a compelling opening, followed by a development of your main idea, and conclude with a memorable closing. Allow your thoughts to flow naturally, maintaining a conversational tone that keeps an audience engaged.

How long should a monologue be?

Aim for a duration that maintains the audience's interest. Generally, 2-4 minutes is a good guideline, but let the content dictate the length. Ensure each word serves a purpose, keeping the monologue concise and impactful.

Can I use humour in a serious monologue?

Absolutely! Humour can be a powerful tool in creative writing to engage your audience and create a connection. However, balance is key. Integrate humor thoughtfully, ensuring it complements the overall tone and reinforces your message rather than distracting from it.

How do I make my monologue relatable?

Inject your personality into the narrative. Share personal anecdotes, use everyday language, and express genuine emotions. Allow your unique voice to shine through, creating a connection that resonates with the audience and makes your monologue memorable.